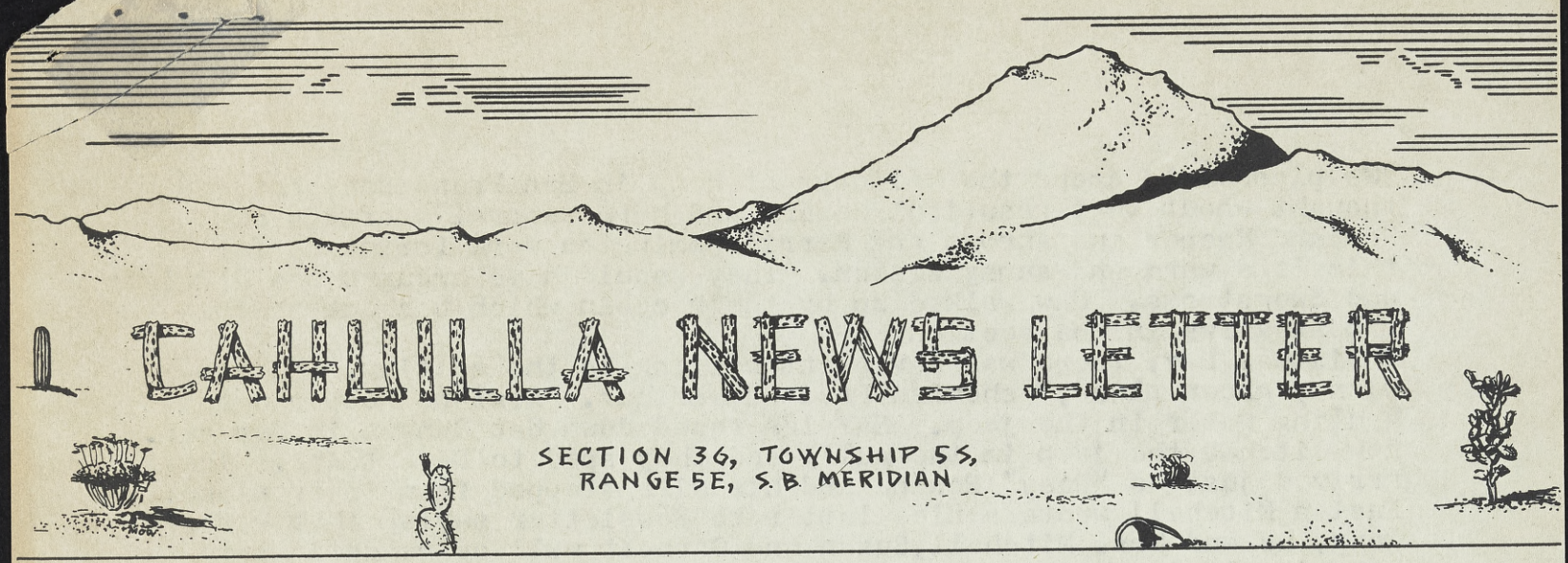

CAHUILLA NEWS LETTER

SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 5S,
RANGE 5E, S.B. MERIDIAN

JANUARY 5, 1957 VOLUME III, NUMBER 8

INVENTORY OF CAT CANYON

THE ROADS--Better than at any time in history.
ELECTRICITY--It is installed in eight houses. Mr. Bernard Cooper has lined up sixteen potential users on Cholla and Cougar Trails. Mr. Wm. Gaston will bring power to his house on Sunrise Trail. Several families near Cat Canyon road, north of the present terminus are planning to install power shortly.
WATER--Mr. Bancroft has established a water route that supplies water with admirable speed. Newsletter saw Katinka, the truck, delivering water at five P.M. Christmas Eve.
GAS. Gebbie's delivers gas every week and mid-week on request.
"Here is a check for the road," said a good friend; "we have been waiting for a request for money."
Every cent contributed to the road is unsolicited. Newsletter merely reports. The community responds.
This is a thrilling statement of fact. Each person gives what he wishes without coercion. He assumes responsibility for the community and gives not only for himself but for his neighbors.
The most amazing manifestation of this fine sentiment is the monies received from out-of-town plot owners who cannot plan to make use of the roads for years to come, yet give for the good of the community.
This remarkable spirit is the keynote for this new year, 1957. May we continue to give freely, without solicitation, but with this fine community spirit.
May the many new people who are coming into Cahuilla partake of this policy of unity of effort, thus carrying us to greater heights of community improvement, mutual helpfulness, and tremendous pride.

FINAL ROAD REPORT FOR 1956. Donations from September, 1956. Please check. If you are not listed and should be. Check for correct amount. Please inform us of errors.

Bowie	$10.00	Mayer	$10.00	Spievak	$ 5.00
Bertrand	4.00	O'Brien	5.00	Schaefer	10.00
Cooper	5.00	Peterson	5.00	E. Smith	5.00
Filer	10.00	Perryman	10.00	Waters	10.00
Henderson	5.00	Rek	10.00	Wurst	5.00
Hoffman	10.00	Remington	10.00	Worley	5.00
Hooper	10.00	Schaak	10.00	White & Versell	10.00
Mitchell	10.00	Snook	5.00		
Muro	5.00	Steen	10.00		
					$194.00
				Previous Bal.	40.00
				Total	$234.00

Gaston
Coppellini
Hawkins

Bills: Cut Hill & Grader $167.50 (Pd. Dec. 10, 1956)
Dec. 15: 4 hrs. motor grader
8 loads water
100.00 (Shortage $33.50)

Mr. Bancroft was kind enough to wait for part of the last bill, for several people have promised to send donations. In addition, an additional sum of $50 would permit the road to be scraped about March 15. That would keep it in shape until next fall. Deterioration is the problem. Steady upkeep should cut maintenance costs considerably.
Mr. Bancroft donated five loads of fill and he himself worked all day throwing off small rocks.
He states that something is done about speeders, the present good road will become a washboard. Supporters of the road project are kindly requested to drive very slowly. It will save your roads and your car, also.

Issue1-5-57
PD - Newsletters - Cahuilla News Letter
00-61-334

"We planned to spend the holidays at home in San Francisco, but we thought about that beautiful desert and here we are." Mafalda and Rowland Hooper and Aurora and Merril Remington were fortunate for this is a warm and sunny season. They should have brought the O'Briens and Skogstroms. Maw walked up by their cabin which has one of the finest views in the section.

Christmas Day, there was a violent buzzing in the section. "Green plane, green plane," shouted Fred and Arthur. Rowland Hooper was hauling water in the jeep. Mafalda raced down Cat Canyon in her car. Row ditched the jeep in the gully and they sped to Desert Air. They arrived just as "Rosy" Rosine and his wife stepped from their plane.

Lucien Mitchell wrote a nice letter to Newsletter saying that before long, he and Mrs. Mitchell,Susan and Garrett will be ready to try roughing it in the desert. We hope that means next spring in time for the concert.

Last year Mr. & Mrs. Bob Berkov and Barry were at Cahuilla. This year thay are touring in Italy. They will go to La Scala if they can get in without formal dress. Italy, they say, is "Like So. California" now.

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Cole of Seattle are enjoying their stay at the Perryman cabin, but the gas man accidentally put out the pilot light in their refrigerator and they appealed to Maw for help. Maw has never lighted a refrigerator, but she couldn't refuse.

Mrs. Cole looked at her and said," One look at those dreamy eyes and I don't think you can do it."

Maw didn't think so either, but she passed a Christmas miracle, and it lit. They were visited by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Clark who have their trailer parked in Cathedral City.

Katherine Wolff spent Christmas at her cabin. She dines with the Murrays

Alice Muro's cute red & white car appeared the day after Christmas.

Mrs. Mora Brown entertained her sons and their families.

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Kelley passed through Cahuilla on their way to spend the holidays in San Diego.

Mr. Costant Cappellini spent some time working on his cottage last week.

Mr. & Mrs. W.O.Snook plan to spent all week building their beautiful hand made house.

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Steen have moved into their new house. Helen will return to her Pasadena Home where she always entertains at a Rose Parad breakfast, then she and Curtis will return for a long stay.

Duke and Bernice Fitch went to Los Angeles for Christmas.

Tony and Peg Barbarino will spend several days at Camelback Inn in Phoen

Glen and Sally Henderson visited the Herman Hendersons recently.

Leah and Ed Schaefer hope to spend New Year's Eve at the Shadow Mountain Club party, which is always a very gay affair.

THE NEW GOLF CLUB AT INDIAN WELLS attracts many week-end guests. It is so loaded with radio TV and movie stars that out of staters always park there in the hope of meeting a celeb.

SALTON SEA IS ATTRACTING CROWDS THESE WARM WINTER DAYS. Thousands of ducks stop there enroute to the destination of their unbeliebably long flights. The early morning traveller may see them in rafts on the sea, thousands of the birds forming a bridge that almost crosses the huge sea.

This is also a favorite rendezvous for speed-boat racers and water skiers.

The ranger says that all available rental space is taken early. They could accomodate three times as many cars if they were prepared.

"Uncles" Pat and Martin Thornton have gone to Compton to visit.

Cole and "Jezebel" Bertrand raced from Christmas Eve in Los Angeles to Christmas dinner in Cathedral City. (Whew).

Pat and Norene Dundas are interested in getting electricity in their new cottage.

Best wishes to Grace for a speedy recovery.

Bob & Hazel Waters went to Sunland for Christmas, back to Palm Desert for mid-week partying, to Balboa for New Year's Day. January 10 Haze will meet Angel Ramsay in Phoenix. They will stay at the Desert Hills Hotel for several weeks.

The Christmas Cards were wonderful. Maw thinks they are the nicest part of the holiday, for it is so pleasant to hear from friends from all parts of the world. Maw and Cactus take this method of thanking all their kind friends and wishing each one of you a healthy happy year.

PALM DESERT News Letter

January 5, 1957 Volume II, Number 8.

PALM DESERT NEWSLETTER IS UNIQUE. It had dozens of subscribers before it was started. Merchants and residents of the area suggested that local news was what they sought. They want news for their interest, amusement and information, news that is about events in this community. This, them, is the mission of Newsletter, a non-profit service devoted to the news and improvement of Palm Desert.

> "We herewith enclose check for $5.00 to pay for our subscription to NEWSLETTER. The remainder is a small payment for the generous mention given us in your pages by way of advertisement. If you will not accept the money for yourselves, please add it to many of the many fine activities you do to serve your community."
>
> Earcel & Elizabeth Ostler.

NEWSLETTER is deeply flattered and gratified by a response such as this The balance of $3 will be donated to the PALM DESERT FIREMAN'S FUND.

"PALM DESERT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS FUNDS to purchase needed equipment not furnished by the division of forestry," President R.C. Sturgeon states in a recent circular. He says that the exceptionally favorable fire insurance rates in this area are made possible by the volunteers who augment the one man crew provided by the California Division of Forestry for Palm Desert.

Funds are needed to purchase and mount a new siren somewhere in the Church-School area.

This village is fortunate in that its fire department posseses a portable resuscitator, which members have been trained to use. These fine men also donate to the Rotary Blood Bank, which is available to all people as needed.

The volunteer fire men are local business men who unselfishly give of their spare time to perform this vital civic duty. There is no pay, except in case of fire.

The fire station will presently receive a new 750 gallon pumper. The old truck will then become the property of the volunteers and will be on stand-by duty at all times.

When there is a forest fire such as the one that recently destroyed so much vegetation on Highway 74, the forestry trucks are always moved out for the fire. The old truck will protect Palm Desert.

Mr. Sturgeon suggests that since there is such a large percentage of older retired people in this area who are beyond the age of active duty, they may also participate by money donations to this tremendously important service.

THE BUILDING YOU SAVE MIGHT BE YOUR OWN.

Make your New Year Resolution for 1957--a subscription to NEWSLETTER Its in your town. Its about your town. It asks for your subscription. Order it right now.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN TELEPHONE RATES WILL BE PROTESTED at a meeting in the Palm Springs City Council Chambers at the Palm Springs Air Port, January 3 & 4, 1957.
Local citizens are urged to attend. The Public Utilities Commission has no way of knowing people object to increased rates if people do not make their wants known. Be there. It is important.
Rex Hardy, Public Utilities Commissioner will attend the hearing.
Mr. Clayton Thomas of Los Angeles and Mr. Harry Cannon of Palm Desert are the atterneys assigned to the case by the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce.

FREEWAY TO BE BUILT FROM PALM SPRINGS TO INDIO. Increased volume of traffic that was characterized as "atomic" by the road commissioner has accelerated plans for construction of a freeway. Residents and business men are working for construction of a new road east of Highway 111. This would accomodate fast traffic, trucks and buses.
"The present road goes through the Gold Coast of the desert," said a Palm Springs Realty man recently. "It should be reserved for sight seeing, and for local traffic."
The unique California scene of Palms, and Citrus growing and bearing fruit against a background of snow covered mountains should not be destroyed. Much of the stunning beauty in the Redlands to Pomona district has been erased by housing and traffic. Desert resorts would be well advised to combine and make a strong effort to save this rare scenic area.

RED CROSS COLLECTION FOR HUNGARIAN REFUGEES received a generous response from Palm Desert folk who visited the Post Office during the holidays. Two of this areas most beautiful women , Kay Malone and Teddy Roberts, took precious pre-holiday time to perform this most worthy service, to which they got a generous response. Mrs. Marje Brown was in charge of the collection.

THE PALM DESERT WOMAN'S CLUB will feature a fashion show at its January meeting. Clothes will be furnished by Mrs. Isabelle Belyea's shop in Shadow Mountain Club.

Senator and Mrs. Albert W. Hawkes arrived in Palm Desert for the winter season. Mrs. Hawkes contracted a cold on the train, and has been confined to her home. Her many friends wish this lovely lady a speedy and complete recovery.

Mrs. L.R.Waters was winner of Shadow Mountain Club's coveted Bridge trophy. Tournament play will be resumed after the holidays. Haze plans to spend some time in Phoenix during January, so she was doubly happy to have the chance to play in the early tournament.

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Hunter will entertain Mr. & Mrs. Earl Headman from Seattle over the holidays.
Dr. & Mrs. William Hansom were first time desert visitors. "Doc" threatens to close his Philadelphia office and retire to this "place where you do nothing and like it."
Dr. & Mrs. Charles B. Alexander entertained at a mid-holiday party.
Colonel Henderson visited the opera in Japan, planned to spend Christmas in mid-ocean, hoped to fly to Detroit and return home for the New Year Party. (My how that man gets around.)
HALE'S MEN SHOP, which recently opened in The Patio carries a complete line of quality clothes for men and boys. Ralph and Natalie plan to build a beautiful home in Palm Desert, and divide their time between the desert and Balboa, where they have a home.
Mrs. Jeanette Constantino was busy moving during the holidays. Palm Desert Corporation will occupy temporary quarters in The Center pending construction of their new two story office building.
The annual New Years party at Shadow Mountain Club promises to be the best in history. Reservations are greater than ever.
Shirley Wall closed the Palm Desert Laundry on the two Mondays before the holidays, a generous gesture of this gracious lady.
Evelyn Gray and her family write that they plan to spend much time at their new home.
THE ANDREWS WEDDINGS are proving to be memorable events. Lovely Wynette has chosen the holiday colors, red and green for her color scheme.
HIGH WINDS CLOSED THE HIGHWAY FROM INDIO TO BLYTHE RECENTLY. There was some wind early in the morning, but the days are sunny and balmy, the warmest Christmas in many seasons.

Dear Editor, Cahuilla Newsletter,

I have discovered, during a recent visit to your community, a nefarious plot that I feel should be brought to the attention of your readers. Chuckawalla Rustlers are loose in your area and could spell the ruination of your civilization.

The Chuckawalla lizard, although not generally thought to have much commercial value in more civilized areas of the nation, finds its existence of great importance in the Cahuilla Hills region. The little animal has amazing powers of detection where water is concerned. It's not so much the discovery of new sources of water that makes this an unusual reptile, but its wondrous facility of locating the wet stuff that has been obtained through extra legal methods and its infallible method of seeking out the perpatrators of the heinous crime of water napping.

In reality, the Chuckawalla has little personal interest in water. Through centuries of desert living, he has made water one of his lesser bodily requirements. The water he does take is stored in his body and used as required, making it possible for the animal to live its entire life, if necessary, without bending an elbow, as it were. But to say that this denizen of aridity is devoid of acquatic interest would be an unkind mis-statement of fact. No one knows why the creature is endowed with such altruism, but whatever it is, he has earned the undying thanks of all the Section's residents, and more important, the Section's law enforcement officers.

Any man to be considered for the title of Sherrif must first display soecial talents in the interpretation of signs, language and moods of the Chuckawalla. He must, at the splatter of an ill-gotten drop of water, be able to call forth the services of the Chuckawalla necessary in tracking down that most villianous of desert criminals, the water-napper.

To combat the forces of law, order, and the pause that refreshes, many defenses have been designed by the water napper. For example, the most popular maneuver is known as the "Daylight Heist." The exploit takes advantage of the Chuckawalla's reluctance to do anything in the daytime. Like any true desert lover, he has one object in life. When the sun climbs over the mountain into the sky, the desert floor seems to come alive for an instant as thousands of tiny pairs of dark glasses are placed over Chuckawallian eyes and hundreds of tails are flipped in quest of a comfortable resting place to better enjoy the sun's warmth. At this time, the animal's powers of detection are at their weakest. (The Chuckawalla's best working hours are from 2A.M. to dawn, excepting Monday when the union forbids him doing any work at all.) (Certainly the union, one of the nation's strongest!")

To complete the execution of the "Daylight Heist", or "The Brazen Borrower Caper," as it is referred to in some circles, the water-napper approaches an unattended water tank with bucket in hand. He draws the needed water with the air of having the unqualified permission of the owner of the wet stuff. If questioned as to the propriety of his action,(vulgarly known as "being caught in the act") he virtuously and indignantly states that he is "borrowing." As a matter of fact, at the time the water-napper is performing the act, he himself truly believes that he is merely "borrowing." While the water drips merrily into his pan, (anything from a gallon jug to a fifty gallon tank hidden under the back seat of his 1957 BlazeAway Eight) he has every intention of returning a like amount. He never does, however, for he returns to the safety of his own five acres and realizes the futility in being dishonest with himself. Patios, foundations, even whole houses have been constructed in this manner.

Nothing could describe the complete frustration of the desert folk who are the rightful owners of filled tanks of water. The master jumps into a nice cool shower, after a four hundred mile through dusty desert; he soaps himself thoroughly; the water quits at rinsing time. Nor can the look of relief be described in the eyes of the lady recalling how lucky she feels that she made the stop at Banning since she now has no water to operate the household plumbing. Or the utter contempt felt by the homesteader who found it necessary to welcome his new son without the aid of the traditional boiling water.

When the first case of water-napping occurred is not known. Nor can it be revealed when it was first discovered that the Chuckawalla could detect a water-nap, disclose the presence of napped water, or reveal the name of the culprit. It can be told, however, that one morning before dawn, many years ago, residents of a near-by village were awakened by a distant moaning that sounded like a cow calling a man's name. The townsfolk weren't sure, but the name they heard

resembled Cornwallis.
The next day, a U.S.Marshall rode into town with the bodies of two old prospectors draped over the end of his horse. He said that he had been riding through Cat Canyon and had found them lying in the grease bush. One man had an empty canteen and looked as though he had died of thirst. The second man, reported the Marshall, had a full canteen and looked well watered. But, said the Marshall, he had apparently been smothered. When he had arrived on the scene, the second prospector's remains were completely covered by Chuckawallas. (No, there were no signs of violence, for everybody knows that a Chuckawalla eats only the beautiful flowers.)
When the townsfolk checked the wallets of the two men, they found that the first man's name was Jones, and the second was called.....Thomas Wellington Cornwallis.
By logical deduction, (a posteriori) the townsfolk were able to determine that Cornwallis had napped Jones' water, thus causing the latter's demise. Cornwallis had apparently made the mistake of spending the night not far from the place where he had committed the crime.
The Chuckawallas, by their uncanny methods, sought out Cornwallis and took the law into their own hands, or paws. Thus, by their actions, the Chuckawallas not only led the Marshall to the perpetrator of the dastardly act, but had also attempted to summon the townsfolk in an attempt to save the lives of the two men, since the purpose of the Chuckawalla is not to mete out justice, but to call attention to injustice.
Ever since then, whenever the townsfolk were awakened by a distant moaning, resmebling that of a cow calling a man's name, they knew that a water-napper was abroad in the waterless regions of the desert.
But now it must be reported that the villianous water-nappers have found a means of neutralizing the Chuckawallas, a method that may be referred to purely as Chuckawalla rustling.
It has been mentioned in an earlier paragraph that the Chuckawalla's prime interest in life is to soak up the heat of the desert sun. The water-nappers have turned this desire for the sun to their own advantage. They found that the animal's favorite sunning place is atop a wood pile. The water-nappers have build great wood piles near their homes, and Chuckawallas innocently flock to these traps. As soon as they are comfortably settled, the dirty nappers, corral the sun-baked beasts, paint their backs with fancy designs, and ship them to Eastern markets to be sold as house pets. Some of the younger Chuckawallas have attempted to run away. The cruel nappers grab their tails, which immediately fall off. The animal escapes, but he is so overcome with shame at his semi-nudity that he is never again able to detect a water-napper.
Let this serve to sound the alarm! The Chuckawalla rustlers are doing their evil work! They are one and the same as water nappers. Act NOW! Destroy all scrap lumber piles that have appeared recently. Remember the Battle Cry, "SAVE THE CHUCKAWALLA AND OUR WATER, TOO!"

Signed
Chuck A. Wawa
Los Angeles, Cal.

Editor's note: The above stirring document was forwarded to Newsletter by Allen Schaak after a week-end at Cahuilla.

****

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Newsletter is very grateful for the kind letters. Wish we could publish them, but space forbids.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Miss Louise Salisbury, Burbank, Cal.
Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Finn,
Akron, Ohio

RENEWALS

Mr. & Mrs. Otto W. Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cahoon

RENEWALS

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Baron
Mr. & Mrs. Earcel Ostler
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Smith
Mr. & Mrs. A.J.Wurst

CAHUILLA NEWSLETTER
Published twice monthly.
Arnold "Cactus" Schaak, Publisher
Esther "Maw" Schaak, Editor

PALM DESERT NEWSLETTER
1646 Larco Way, Glendale, Cal
P.O.Box 145,
Palm Desert, Cal.

Subscription, $2 per year
Single copy, ten cents.
Business Directory listing free with subscription. The directory is published several times per seasons.
Contributions from readers are welcomed.